

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1242

By Kumar

A RESOLUTION to recognize Robert Gardner on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Robert Gardner is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for thirty years as an employee of Springfield Electric, the electric utility department of the City of Springfield, where he has held the position of Electric Utility Director for the past twenty-six years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner will be taking his much-deserved retirement on June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Robert Gardner began his illustrious career with Springfield Electric in July 1990 as an electrical engineer after briefly working as a computer application engineer. He was promoted to director in October 1994, becoming the youngest department head in the City of Springfield at the age of thirty and the first African American; and

WHEREAS, under his exemplary leadership, Springfield Electric lowered electric rates twice, eliminated debt, reduced outages by thirty percent, constructed two new substations, replaced its electric fleet, remodeled and expanded the department, and pushed to increase pay and benefits for employees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner holds a degree in electrical engineering from Tennessee State University and received his Master of Business Administration from Trevecca Nazarene University; and

WHEREAS, he is an active and important part of his profession, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association,

the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association, the American Public Power Association, and the Central District Manager's Association; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Robert Gardner is the founder of The Master's Table Soup Kitchen and an avid supporter of the Bransford Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Robert Gardner exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Robert Gardner has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and the Springfield community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Robert Gardner our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.